

own and operate their father's restaurant and they are also continuing his tradition of honoring their Greek roots.

In recognition of their continued support of causes that promote Hellenism in America, in February of this year Thomas and Paul Calamaras received the title of Archon Depoutatos by the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention these important men, Tom and Paul Calamaras, as they are honored as "Men of the Year." I would also like to offer my sincere congratulations to the Broadway-Astoria Merchants & Professionals Association as it celebrates its 18th Annual Dinner Dance.

A TRIBUTE TO ED HASTEY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding public service of my very good friend, Ed Hastey. Ed is looking forward to a full and productive retirement after serving the Bureau of Land Management, the State of California, and the nation for over 46 years.

A fourth generation Californian and native of Pacific Grove, Ed attended Fresno State College and Monterey Peninsula College, and following his service in the military, graduated from the University of Washington in 1957. He joined BLM in 1957 after several years in the Army Airborne. Over the years, he served as the BLM's national budget officer, assistant director for administration, and as associate director in Washington, DC. He also served two stints as BLM's California State Director, the last stretching from 1982 to the present.

During his tenure at the BLM, Ed spent most of his career directing the management of 16 million acres of public lands in California and Northern Nevada. In that time, he has worked under a dozen Secretaries of Interior. "I once referred to Ed Hastey as 'the viceroy of California,' and I truly believe no single individual has had a more positive impact on California's landscapes than Ed," said Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "He will be missed."

Ed is widely credited with founding the California Biodiversity Council which draws together all Federal and State land management and environmental agencies with County Supervisors Associations from throughout the state to collaborate on ways to better manage California's diverse natural resources.

Ed is especially proud of the land exchange and acquisition program that he directed in cooperation with the State of California and several private land conservancies that has ensured protection of many unique California landscapes. Several examples include the King Range National Conservation Area on the north coast, the Carrizo Plain in central California, the Santa Rosa Mountains in Southern California, and Cosummes Preserve in Sacramento County, and numerous other areas throughout the state. Ed was also instrumental in the recent acquisition of the

Headwaters Forest in Humboldt County which the BLM will manage in partnership with the state.

On a personal note, Ed has been a longtime friend and trusted advisor on important public land issues affecting my congressional district in southern California. We have, over the years, enjoyed many back country excursions together. I know that our friendship will continue and fully expect to spend many more days together exploring the vast and beautiful California wilderness.

Mr. Speaker, few people in public life ever make the type of contributions made by my very good friend, Ed Hastey. As he begins his well-deserved retirement, Ed leaves many admirers in and out of government who respect him for his work, his fundamental sense of decency, and most importantly, his integrity. All of us wish Ed, his wife of 45 years, Joyce, and his family much happiness in the coming years. It is only appropriate that the House pay tribute to Ed Hastey today.

HONORING COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to honor an institution of higher learning that is currently enjoying its 50th year of academic excellence.

Coahoma Community College, nestled in Clarksdale, Mississippi, was established on June 8, 1949, by the Board of Trustees of Coahoma County agricultural High School. Back then, they got together to discuss adding a freshman year of college to the high school as provided by a special act of the state legislature. At the same time, they changed the name of the school to Coahoma Junior College and Agricultural High School which now stands as Coahoma Community College.

Coahoma Community College started out as a college where African-American students could pursue their dreams of obtaining a college education when no other opportunities were available to them. Today, they strive to meet the dreams of every student, adult and businessperson who has a desire to improve his or her place in life.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to add that Coahoma Community College is just that . . . a college for the community. It has definitely come a long way since 1949. With the additions of the Skill/Tech Industrial Training Center and other programs, Coahoma works with businesses and industrial plants offering start-up training, employee and skills enhancement training and health and safety training. Through its academic, vo-tech and skill/tech classes, the college offers a variety of non-credit courses designed to enhance the quality of life in the community as well as increase a person's skills in lifelong learning.

From a college that gave blacks an opportunity to attain a college education to providing the community with diverse centers for learning, Coahoma Community College continues

to fulfill its original mission of providing opportunities for advancement for the people it serves.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORTEZ GROWERS

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 75th Anniversary of Cortez Growers.

Many of the original founders of the Cortez Growers Association first came to California in 1910. The farming cooperative takes its name from the small Santa Fe Railroad stop north of Livingston and southeast of Turlock in my district in California's great Central Valley.

Lured to the Valley by a popular Japanese-language newspaper, the immigrants, unable to speak English and ineligible to own land or become U.S. citizens doggedly pursued the American dream, eventually catching it, revolutionizing farming and transforming Merced County into a major agricultural center.

Immigrating in search of opportunity, they lived as sharecroppers and laborers while searching for the American dream in Berkeley, Watsonville, Salinas, Woodlands, Sacramento, San Francisco and nearly any other place where they found inexpensive farmland where they quickly found they could grow nearly anything.

With little money the immigrants faced incredible odds. Under the Alien Land Law of 1913, Asians couldn't own land because they couldn't become citizens. At the same time, many of the established farmers around Livingston didn't welcome the newcomers. Meeting the challenges steadfastly, the new residents of Cortez formed their grower's association on April 18, 1924.

They struggled with anti-Japanese sentiments during World War II, with many forced into internment camps. Though thousands of Japanese-Americans lost everything during the war, the crisis did not end the dreams of the Cortez members. By January, 1945, the tides of war had firmly turned in the Allied forces' favor, and the Western Defense Command had lifted military restrictions on Japanese-Americans. Following the war, the association began radical changes that would see it reach out to its neighbors and change the way we farm in California.

Cortez looks much different than it did 75 years ago. Instead of jackrabbits, there are cars, tractors and trucks. The sand has been replaced by lush greenery. Today there are 80 members; fewer than half claim Japanese roots. The average farm size is only 60 acres, but because of pooled resources, the association has the clout of a much larger organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent these farmers and ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives rise and join me in honoring the Cortez Growers Association on their 75th anniversary.